

CLMPTO-05/16/03

1. (Original) A spread illuminating apparatus comprising:
a light conductive plate shaped substantially rectangular and made of a light-transmissible material;
a spot-like light source disposed close to or in contact with a light entrance surface formed at either a side surface or a corner of said light conductive plate;
a light reflection pattern formed on a major surface of said light conductive plate and including a plurality of grooves which each extend so as to shape a substantially minor arc with respect to said spot-like light source and which are arrayed concentrically; and
a plurality of lenticular elements made of a light-transmissible material, provided on a major surface of said light conductive plate opposite to said major surface provided with said light reflection pattern, and having their respective longitudinal directions oriented perpendicular to said plurality of grooves of said light reflection pattern.
2. (Original) A spread illuminating apparatus as set forth in Claim 1, wherein each of said lenticular elements is rectangular in top plan view.
3. (Original) A spread illuminating apparatus as set forth in Claim 1, wherein each of said lenticular elements is substantially trapezoidal in top plan view, and which have their respective shorter sides of two parallel sides facing said spot-like light source.

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4. (Currently Amended) A spread illuminating apparatus as set forth in ~~any one of~~ Claims 1 ~~to~~ 3, wherein said lenticular elements are of various lengths measuring in a wide range.

5. (Currently Amended) A spread illuminating apparatus as set forth in ~~any one of~~ Claims 1 ~~to~~ 4, wherein said lenticular elements are mostly of a length identical with one another except a smaller number thereof being of various lengths measuring in a narrow range.

6. (Currently Amended) A spread illuminating apparatus as set forth in ~~any one of~~ Claims 1 ~~to~~ 5, wherein said lenticular elements each have a cross section outlined by a minor arc and a chord connecting two points both defining said minor arc.

7. (Original) A spread illuminating apparatus as set forth in Claim 6, wherein said lenticular elements each have their respective widths and heights set such that view field angles thereof range from 5 degrees to 20 degrees preferably 10 degrees to 20 degrees.

8. (Currently Amended) A spread illuminating apparatus as set forth in ~~any one of~~ Claims 1 ~~to~~ 7, wherein said lenticular elements and said light conductive plate are formed integrally of one same material.

9. (Currently Amended) A spread illuminating apparatus as set forth in ~~any one of~~ Claims 1 ~~to~~ 7, wherein said lenticular elements and said light conductive plate are formed discretely.

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